

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7761**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1568

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 15, 2007

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Marion County government.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Crawford

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**      **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Pending

**Summary of Legislation:** *Fire Department Consolidation:* The bill provides that the legislative body of the consolidated city may adopt an ordinance, approved by the executive of the consolidated city, to consolidate one or more fire departments of the following into the fire department of a consolidated city:

- (1) A township.
- (2) A fire protection territory.
- (3) The territory in which an airport authority may provide fire protection services (if the consolidation is approved by an ordinance adopted by the governing body of the airport authority).

*Public Meeting on Consolidation:* It provides that the consolidation ordinance may not be adopted unless the legislative body of the consolidated city holds a public hearing on the proposed consolidation and determines that reasonable and adequate fire protection can be provided through consolidation and that the consolidation is in the public interest.

*Transition:* The bill specifies that the ordinance may provide for a transition period and may prescribe a process for the transition. It also provides that the property, equipment, records, rights, contracts (including labor contracts), and indebtedness related to fire protection services of the fire departments being consolidated are transferred to or assumed by the consolidated city.

*Excluded City Inclusion:* The bill establishes the process by which the fire department of an excluded city may be consolidated into the fire department of a consolidated city.

*Pension:* It provides that a firefighter who is a member of the 1937 or 1977 fund remains a member of the

same fund after the consolidation.

*Property Tax Levy Limits:* The bill exempts from the property tax levy limits any amounts imposed by a consolidated city to fund indebtedness assumed, defeased, paid, or refunded in connection with the consolidation of fire departments into the fire department of a consolidated city.

The bill also provides that the property tax levy limit is increased for a consolidated city by the amount equal to the property tax levy for taxes for fire protection and related services by each entity whose fire department is consolidated into the fire department of the consolidated city and that the property tax levy limit is reduced for each entity.

*Building and Equipment Fund:* The bill specifies that the balance in the cumulative building and equipment fund for fire protection and related services of each entity whose fire department is consolidated into the fire department of the consolidated city be transferred to the consolidated city's cumulative building and equipment fund for fire protection and related services.

*County Option Income Tax:* It specifies that if a township or excluded city fire department is consolidated into the consolidated fire department, the monthly distributive shares of county option income taxes distributed to the township or excluded city shall be reduced by a percentage (which may not be less than 66%) set forth in the consolidation ordinance. It also provides that these county option income taxes shall instead be distributed as additional distributive shares to Indianapolis/Marion County.

*Conformance:* The bill makes conforming changes.

**Marion County Consolidations:** The bill does the following in Marion County:

- (1) It provides that beginning January 1, 2010, the duties of the township assessor are performed by the county assessor.
- (2) It provides that no township assessor shall be elected in the 2010 general election.
- (3) It provides that the office of township assessor is eliminated December 31, 2010.
- (4) It requires the legislative body of a county containing a consolidated city to establish a commission on the consolidation of township assessors. Provides that the commission is established January 1, 2008, and terminates December 31, 2009. Requires the commission to meet and prepare any reports required in the resolution establishing the commission to make recommendations regarding consolidation of assessor functions.
- (5) It provides that beginning on January 1, 2010, the township assessors of a county containing a consolidated city shall assist the county assessor in performing the functions previously performed by the township assessors and shall serve as a board to provide advice and counsel to the county assessor regarding the consolidation of township assessors. Specifies that the county assessor shall be a member of and shall chair the board. Provides that the board terminates December 31, 2010.
- (6) It provides that ordinances and resolutions concerning budgets and appropriations for judicial officers and certain county officers are subject to veto. (Current law exempts those ordinances and resolutions from veto.)
- (7) It makes legislative findings concerning the need for government consolidation in Marion County.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage; January 1, 2007; July 1, 2007; January 1, 2010.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *As of the above date, the fiscal analysis of this bill has not been completed. Please contact the Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis for an update of this fiscal impact statement.*

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

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